

ISSUE

7

APRIL 2014

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

May 20, 2014 — Annual Town meeting at North Andover High School starting at 7:00 PM.

Sign up to receive this Newsletter electronically on the Town of North Andover website, Subscribe to News, News & Announcements.

WALK FOR YOUTH -

SUNDAY June 8th 2014
11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Walk for Youth is a 5K route through North Andover, with post-walk entertainment including food, games, and activities at the Youth Center for all who participate. The event will be fun for all ages. The purpose of the Walk for Youth, just like the Youth Center itself, is to promote a sense of community among the youth of North Andover and enable younger citizens to support and make a difference in their town. The walk will benefit the Youth Center by keeping it up to date with everything it needs to continue to serve the children of North Andover.

QUICK TIP

The Stevens Estate Special Event & Conference Center—Start planning now for the summer and fall.

CONGRATULATIONS to

Dawns' Sign Tech, Inc. for being the 2014 NAMA Merchant of the Year!



North Andover

Community and Business

NEWSLETTER



NEW OWNER.....SAME FACES

RCG LLC recently purchased the west side of the Davis & Furber mill property. RCG already owns the east side of High Street, called "East Mill". East Mill houses Stachey's, Jaime's and many other businesses. When RCG purchased the East Mill in 2007 it had a vacancy of nearly 80%.

Today the East Mill is at full occupancy and is the home of several small to midsize companies.



RCG is a real estate investment, development, and management firm headquartered in Somerville, MA. They operate more than 500 apartments and nearly 600,000 square feet of commercial space. Their goal is to create out-of-the-ordinary and environmentally friendly places to live and work at reasonable prices and to responsibly and professionally serve their customers. Although each

mill complex is legally owned by a different investment group, RCG manages the property for both entities.

David Steinbergh is the principal of RCG LLC and has been with the East Mill project since the beginning. While the East Mill is the home of several small to mid-size businesses, they are hoping to lease the West Mill space to larger companies in order to fill the gap when Schneider Electric and Converse move in the future. In fact, David has been working on filling the space the same day RCG started managing the property. David plans on coming before the Planning Board soon to discuss development plans that will cover the next two months to five years and beyond.

East Mill is the former East Campus of the Davis & Furber Machine Shop that serves as the centerpiece of the Machine Shop Village Neighborhood Conservation District located in North Andover. The property is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and consists of 235,000 square feet of mill buildings dating back to the 1850's that surround an attractive millpond.

Over the past five years RCG has breathed new life into the deteriorating property by introducing a mix of residential, retail, and higher quality office uses that are consistent with thriving downtown neighborhoods and in line with RCG's goals of developing "sustainable" communities. RCG's plan is to create that same attraction to the West Mill.

West Mill consists of approximately 383,000 square feet. The complex was restored in 1986 and then expanded in 1993. The property offers unique potential because of the several renovated brick and beam office space as well as the potential for market rate residential living. Situated just a few minutes from Main Street this development will continue to anchor the south end of downtown.

Schneider Electric will be consolidating several offices to one facility in Andover. Converse will be moving to Lovejoy Wharf in downtown Boston.

NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

Spring is in the air, even though an occasional snow “challenge” continues to come across our radar. With spring comes a reminder that our students, teachers, and a supportive school community continue to exhibit increased learning. In our schools, MCAS testing is approaching for grades 3-8 and 10. Students are displaying increased achievement in DECA competition, a successful winter sports season has been completed, Drama and Music programs are continuing to demonstrate excellence and excitement in multiple festivals and performances and our robotics program maintains impressive progress at all levels. Please visit our website, www.northandoverpublicschools.com, for continuous updates and summaries of the wide array of school activities and events.

The School Committee approved a FY15 budget of \$41,457,661, a 4% increase over the current year, which is aligned with what the town manager currently projects is a sustainable budget moving forward. Part of the overall budget includes funding for free full-day Kindergarten. Please continue to follow the budget process leading up to

Town Meeting by checking both the district and town websites.

As you pass by Kittredge School you will notice that steel framework has been erected for a new gym, projected to be completed this spring. This addition is a much welcomed replacement of the “cafegymatorium” that many of you are familiar with. In addition, spring will also greet the groundbreaking for a new school administration building across from Kittredge School on the site of the former police station. This project should be completed by the following spring, at which time the administration offices will move from the current 1600 Osgood office rental location.

The close cooperation and consolidation of services between schools and municipal government continues to contribute to many supportive changes throughout our school community. We welcome your inquiries and thank all those who continually strive to champion improving student learning.



NEWS FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT



With the nice weather coming, residents can expect the yearly push from salespeople to clean their yards, and perform work on their homes. Last summer in North Andover, as well as many towns in Essex County, residents were greeted at their doors by solicitors and sales people offering those services at below market costs and prices that seemed too good to be true. Paint your house, cut some trees down, seal your driveway, all for a below normal, almost ridiculous cost, the only catch is that they need at least 75% of the cost up front. “No problem” many residents said as they cut a check and watched the “workers” start working. They did scraping, cut some limbs down, swept the driveway, and did the “prep work” for the next day. The next day comes and they don’t show up. “No problem” many residents said as they gave them a few more days until they finally realized that the “workers” weren’t going to show up again, or if they did, caused more damage than they fixed.

When the resident comes to the police department looking for help, we have the unfortunate task of telling them that they have been a victim of a scam and then try to piece together a case for court. I am writing this to tell residents of North Andover to BEWARE of this scam. All solicitors that are allowed to solicit are required to have a permit with their photograph displayed. The contractor doing work down the street who knocks on a few doors asking for business is not allowed to do this! Furthermore, most legitimate businesses take a smaller percentage as a retainer to complete the work and then expect payment when the services are complete. Many times there is a written contract as well. If you have any questions, or are hesitant about a person at your door, call our communications center at 978-683-3168 and ask if they are registered to solicit. If they are not we will promptly dispatch a cruiser to check on the subject and make sure no other residents are pressured into any type of scam.

NEWS FROM THE COUNCIL ON AGING

Council on Aging Senior/Visitor program

Are you a senior who is lonely or home-bound? The North Andover Senior Center is looking for seniors in North Andover who would like to have a Visitor visit one hour a week and call a few times to chat. Learn a hobby, teach a hobby, play cards/games or just talk. This program helps seniors stay in touch with the community and also helps our volunteers become acquainted with a senior and perhaps make a new friend. Please call Sandy the Program Coordinator at 978-688-9560

Council on Aging Visitor/Senior Program

The North Andover Senior Center is looking for Volunteers to visit home-bound seniors living in North Andover for at least one hour a week and call a few times during the week to stay in touch with the senior. This program helps the seniors stay in touch with the community and also helps our volunteers become acquainted with a senior and perhaps make a new friend. Play cards, learn or teach a hobby. Please call Sandy, the Program Coordinator at 978-688-9560.

